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WASHINGTON
JAN
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D.C.

Rev Samuel May jr
No 27 Hollis St
Boston.
Mass

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 13, p. 87-90

Boston Oct. 29. 1863

Dear Sir,

My attention has been drawn, by a notice of your "Recollections of the Anti-Slavery Conflict" in the Liberal Christian, to language which you quote - I know not from what publication - as having been uttered by me in 1844. I refer to a passage on page 341. At this distance of time I can place no denial of such a use of words only on general grounds. I remember the discussion, but, of course, not what I said. I do not believe I used the expression which is ascribed to me; and if I should be told that it was so reported by some one who heard me, I should still distrust the accuracy of his ear or the correctness of his report, - presuming

that he gave in his own words
what he considered a fair transcript of the impression my remarks made on his mind. The epithet by which I am represented as having described the Abolitionists is so offensive to me that I cannot think the ~~writer~~ left from my lips, even in the warmth of debate. I have spoken of a "malignant philanthropy", borrowing a phrase which seemed to me unfortunately borne of those who, in their zeal for the universal enjoyment of human rights, treated those who differed from them as if they were destitute alike of intelligence & of conscience; but the vulgar, foul word for which you make me responsible I disclaim. I am confident in the persuasion that I could not have used the language included in quotation marks by my dislike to the expression "in our very midst" (or in our midst) which I held to be bad English, and ~~to~~ am ~~careful~~ careful to avoid.

ms. B. L. 6 vi B. p. 87-88

I am inclined to think that you have indulged in a little rhetorical license, in describing me as having "most unsparingly & vehemently condemned the Abolitionists of the Free States", for whom I certainly did differ in regard to measures which they advocated & the "Spirit" which they often exhibited, but upon whom I doubt if I poured out such indiscriminate censure.

The remarks which you attribute to me on page 369, and that also, printed in italics, on page 372, I may have uttered, for I know that I dreaded a dissolution of the Union as the downfall of some of the best hopes of humanity; but I have also said, perhaps at a later period, that duty seemed to me to require of a Christian that he should protect a fugitive slave & take the consequences, so recognising the validity alike of the Divine & the human law.

I have written this note,
not to excuse nor to exculpate
myself in regard to any thing
which I have actually said or
done, for each man must stand
to be judged by the truth; but simply
to remind you what I believe is an
error in your narrative; though
of the slightest importance, as it may
appear, even from a personal point
of view, I still wish to remove
what I deem a false imputation.

Respectfully
Yours,
Isaac Jennett

Rev. S. J. May

Syracuse, Nov 1

Dear Cousin

Please read the foregoing letter — and return it to me — as soon as you conveniently can — stating when and where Dr G. and the ex-President I have attributed to him and I will see if your recollections tally with my own —

We are expecting Ade and Edward tomorrow and shall welcome them most cordially —

Truly yours
Sam'l J. May

I returned this letter to him, and it came back to me with other documents, S. May.

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